

TALON

NEWS MAGAZINE

"Get a Grip"



FINALS



FEATURING:

Tips for Finals P. 3

Death of Reel P. 7

Basketball Preview P. 17

Special Holiday Insert



Avila University

Volume XVI Issue III

In This Issue...

Going Home ▼



For the final issue of the semester we decided to tug a little on the heartstrings. As we wrap up November and enter December, holiday cheer is surrounding us. This issue we dedicate our insert to the holidays. The holidays are all about going home and being with friends and family. Check out holiday memories and how a few students spend their holidays.

We are all faced with one problem before we enter holiday bliss... stinky FINALS! In this issue, read the red rant of one particular student who really dislikes finals and some helpful success tips to surviving finals. Also, check out more changes happening around campus and stay updated with the busy theater dates.

In the sports section we preview the men and women's basketball teams and our sports editor gives us more stadium renovation updates. And of course, don't forget he said/she said and our commentary sections.

I know where I'll be during the holidays; I hope you enjoy yours!

** Be sure to participate in the games & puzzles throughout (pg. 16, 23 & 24) the Talon and win a prize from our PRIZE CLOSET!! Prizes courtesy of The Talon, 98.9 The Rock and 96.5 The Buzz!!*



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TALON

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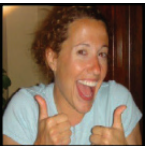
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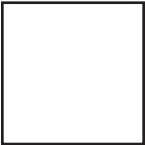
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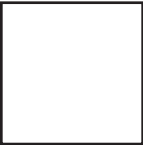
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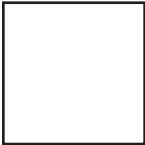
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This Could
Be You!



This Could
Be You!



This Could
Be You!



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We're always looking to expand our Talon team. If you are interested in writing stories, taking pictures, or page layout, please feel free to contact me. Additionally, we also appreciate any feedback, good or bad.

Kayle Walker
walker129211@avila.edu

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Cover Concept by: Jon Dunn

Emily Hoskins STUDENT PERSPECTIVE



Finals Suck! RED RANT:

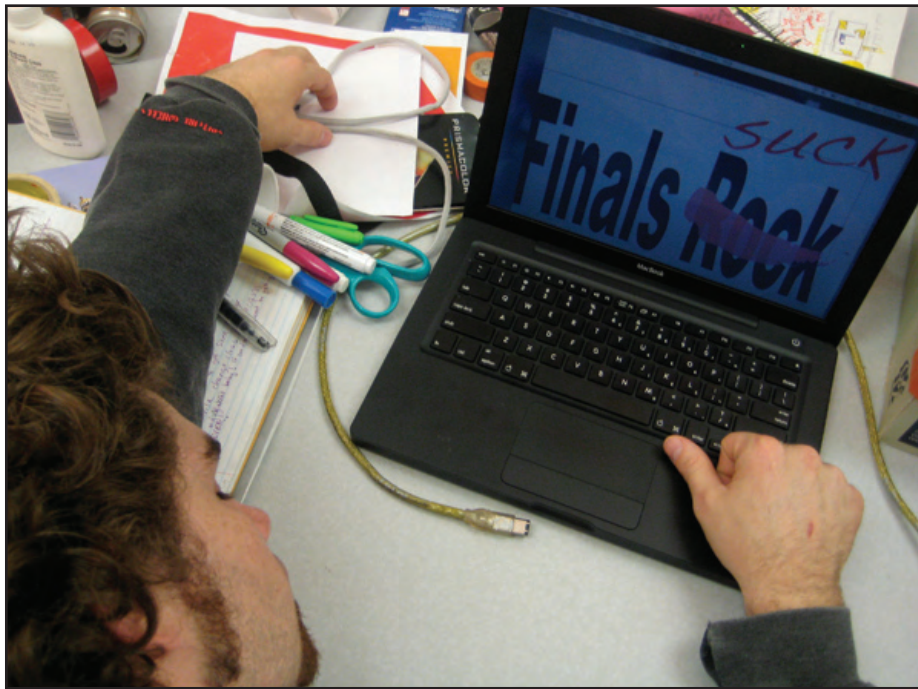
Here they come to wreck the day! Yep, they come twice a year, bringing you nothing but pain and anxiety attacks with them. Finals. Finals suck. Anyone opposed to that? No, I didn't think so. And are they really necessary? Here, take all this information that you've learned in the past semester, pile it into your head for a bunch of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Because writing the perfect essay is all that matters in your life. Didn't anybody ever tell you that? Yes, if you can't write the perfect essay about embryology, then life as you know it is over.

I don't know if it's just me but this is my routine for a final. I know it's hard to believe but yes, I do study and learn

as much as I can for what I am about to be brutally tested over. Then I take the exam, walk out of the room and probably forget about 90% of what I memorized for the course. Its not that I mean to forget it, it's that I just don't care. Well, of course it depends on what course it is, and then I might recall some of the information. Finals just ruin the oh so precious time we have in college. Hours spent studying that one should be sleeping could lead to very bad sleep deprivation, which could lead

to depression and even sickness.

By giving finals, these professors could be knowingly contributing towards a student's sickness. Astonishing isn't it? All right, for the most part I'm not picking on the professors for giving finals; after all they did have to take finals themselves when they were our age. It's just the circle of life I guess. Eat, sleep, and finals. We just have to bit the bullet, drink the Red Bull, and get through it as best we can.



Library Treats

In the spring of 2007, the library had a morning during which they served coffee and snacks and a follow-up survey that asked if students would like a continuance of such services. The results revealed that three-fourths of students who took the survey wished to have coffee and snacks in the library. For this reason, students may now receive these treats in the library 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. According to the Avila website, muffins will be among the snacks.



Congratulations! You have made it to the end of the semester! Well almost. As the semester comes to an end, the dreaded finals week begins. Finals week is December 9 through the 14 and is the only thing standing in the way of a month free from the textbooks.

With the right study skills you can keep the stress levels to a minimum and do well on the tests. Here are a few study tips to keep you on track and sane.

First of all, you have to prioritize. You have a limited time to study and will have to choose how to spend your time wisely. Grades will play a major role in which things are more important than others. For instance if you are on the border between an A or B, maybe spending some extra time on that subject will help you pull off that A. Or if you're barely passing a class, spending more time in that area to get a C would be a good idea.

Second, start early! Make a schedule of all the things you need to complete in the upcoming weeks before finals begin. Also be sure to schedule study breaks within your schedule. Make time to hang out with your friends and do something you enjoy. It's important to give yourself

some free time so you don't go insane.

Also be sure to schedule sleep within your schedule. Most people can't continually function with only two or three hours of sleep. You'll do much better on your exams if you are mentally rested. Recharge your body and mind with a good 7 or 8 hours of sleep.

Third, stay healthy. Eat well and exercise. Eating well will keep your energy up and your mind running. The exercise will also work as a stress reliever. Just be sure you're not doing either as a form of procrastination.

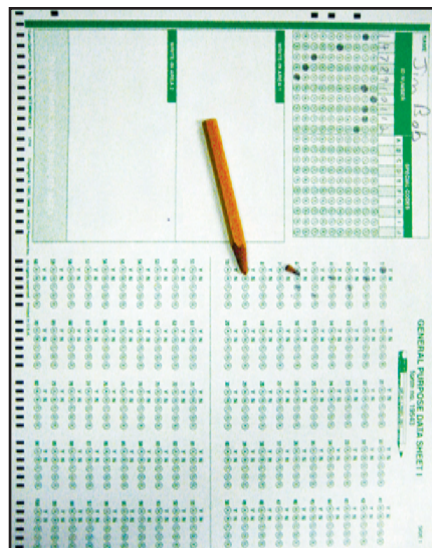
Fourth, free your schedule. As lame as this sounds, put your social life on hold. If you schedule free time within your schedule this will be easier. Your friends can be the biggest distraction. It's okay to flake on them just this once, because after all, they should be studying for their own finals.

Fifth, ask your professors for help. If you are having troubles, there is no one who knows the material better than your professor. Just don't wait until the last minute, because they will know and that won't reflect very well on you.

Sixth, keep things in perspective. It's not the end of the world if you

don't do well on a test. Try to relax. Excessive stress will make you crazy and hurt your performance on tests.

Seventh, once you've completed your finals, let them go. There is no reason to stress over something you cannot change. Enjoy your break from school and learn from your mistakes for the next semester. Good luck!



Make sure to spell your name right!

Kayle Walker

7 Successful Tips For Finals

Dorm Access Fixed?

CharlotteBishop

Everyone should know by now, the dormitory access policy is officially changed. Students can enter Carondelet and Ridgway with their cards from 10 AM to 10 PM every day, but Thompson remains inaccessible to non-residents. The change is active now, but if your card still doesn't work, let the Campus Security office know ASAP.

Darby Peoples, Dean of Students, is uncomfortable with the change. "I still want [the dorms] locked, and I can't say the policy won't change again in the near future."

However, Peoples is happy that the students got what they wanted.

"I'm comfortable saying that there was a holdup because I'm new here. Next time I change a policy, I'll understand

the procedure. I'm happy that this is done, happy that the students got what they wanted. But what I'm really happy about is that the students were persistent and that they worked with the system that we set up to give them a voice."

"I see a part of my job as educating each new group of students about how to make change happen."

Peoples adds, "I see a part of my job as educating each new group of students about how to make change happen. You can't just throw a tantrum and expect to get what you want.

There's a system in place to make change effective."

The students made the change happen exactly as Peoples says. If students keep working like this, they can make all sorts of changes that they want or need. Residents got organized and at least made a compromise. If they keep trying, they can do much more.



Getting to know the President of . . . STUDENT SENATE DaniAsher

Chances are many students at Avila don't know who the current President of Student Senate is. You may not even know much about the purpose of Student Senate or the role they play in the Avila community. Serving this term as President is Albert Ingram. Student Senate's role, according to Albert, is "to bring about any positive changes for the campus, as well as any needs addressed by the faculty or students."

Albert ran for the position of president after being involved with Student Senate for only one semester, mainly because he was encouraged by his friends and peers who had noticed the appropriate qualities in him.

"I wanted to take the time to invest in something that would benefit me in the future. I recognized a need for change in my life." He is interested in changing anything from a negative to a positive and making people more aware of those changes.

For this modest psychology student, the transition into this leadership role has not been without obstacles. Albert has been frustrated at times from being new and not as familiar with the ins and outs of the organization. He is still trying to develop his own causes, apart from the history and momentum of the group in the past, which is not necessarily aligned with his vision.

Even with these frustrations,

Albert has already seen some success with Student Senate. Members of the Student Senate met with the Board of Trustees to open the lines of communication and make them aware of the student government's goals. The group also joined the American Student Government Association, which will continue to improve Student Senate in the future.

There are several items on the upcoming agenda for the Student Senate. Albert is hoping to plan a social event with a competitive twist that would include all Avila

"I recognized a need for change in my life."

student organizations. One of his focuses is to improve the school spirit. He would like to get a video broadcasting program going that would provide more interactive updates about upcoming events to get students involved around campus. Student Senate is actively working towards improving the ongoing cafeteria problems as well.

Albert hails from Valencia, California and came to Avila in 2005 to play basketball. He took some time off last year when his dad had a liver transplant but is now the team's undergraduate assistant.

"I am thankful to Coach Hall for bringing me here to this family atmosphere, especially for the spiritual aspect as well as basketball."

Albert is also President of the

Psychology Club and Secretary of Black Student Union. He plans on graduating this spring and would love to attend graduate school afterwards, wherever the best opportunity presents itself. Albert wants to one day become a basketball coach and therapist.

"Avila taught me the value of service to others and to communicate more effectively. The core values have increased my knowledge, wisdom and insight to change as an overall person."

Student Senate meetings are every other Wednesday at 3:30 PM in the Student Activities room.

To have your voice heard about cafeteria issues, Ben Kopp and the Student Senate need your help. Contact Albert Ingram or Darby Peoples for more information.

Darby.Peoples@avila.edu
816.501.3628
ingram154724@avila.edu



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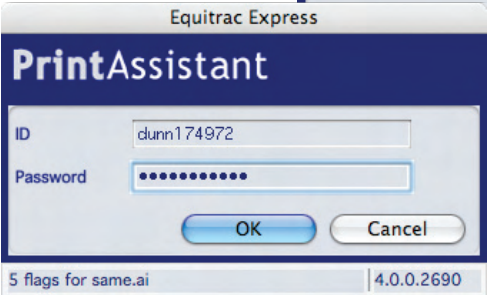
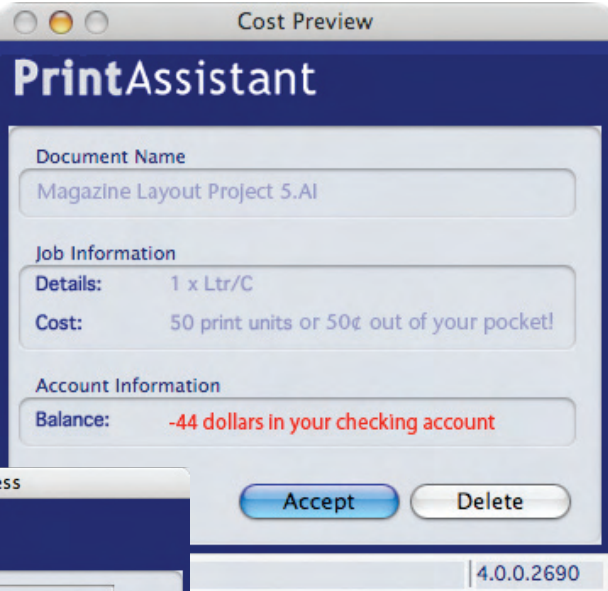
How much is it going to cost to print this story? Mass production must cost something, that's a lot of ink and paper. That must be what Avila had in mind when they decided to start charging their students when they need to print homework.

Why did they bring in the print credit program? It was just a suggestion from one of the faculty members. It might have actually been a tactic by the department to get the go ahead on buying a decent color printer. Each student only gets so many print credits. That is not a bad idea to try and control the amount of money wasted on useless prints that students use on practical jokes, useless mumbo jumbo, and don't forget the students who try and print an entire text book online. That's another example of one bad apple ruining it for the whole bundle, or in our case an entire university. Students start off the year with about 3000 print credits. It costs ten cents for a black and white print and fifty cents for a color print. This is definitely sufficient for the average student who probably prints three to five times a week if that.



When history major Brian Witt was asked how often he prints, he responded with "I only print about twice a week for my computer class, then if I have a paper due in another class, maybe once every two weeks." The problem is some of the graphic design classes require a printed piece of progress each class. Sometimes the students try to reduce their fees by only printing black and white, but that only works until the teachers request otherwise. "Most of the time I have to print my final drafts 5 to 25 times to get a perfect one," said Jon Dunn. The amount of credits for the amount of things the students will have to print gets scarcely close to the bank accounts of our very broke college students. The department did a good job of preparing the system for charging our pocket books, but they didn't do such a good job setting up the software compatibility with the printers, because now the Ricoh, the only color printer in the Mac lab, prints out lines of code instead of images when printed from the Photoshop program. The department did reimburse the students who had to deal with the grueling lines of code, but it is still a time consuming problem that has yet to be fixed. The department says it's an Adobe problem, not something to do with our equipment. The print credits are not a major burden on the majority of the students. In fact, many

students will go the whole semester with plenty of credits to spare, but those familiar with the Mac lab know otherwise. Some kind of compromise would be nice, but if managing the cost at our university calls for it then so be it. Hopefully the Photoshop problem will be fixed, and thankfully we have good faculty taking care of our students or they might really have to pay.



The System

The Song of Myself

JamesDeng ▶

My name is James Deng, and I'm from Sudan. I was born in the local town called Malualkon. My Parents are farmers. As I was growing up, I looked toward my father and said that one day, I would be like him. However, my life is not far from the worst because I still doubt how my life can change. I left my homeland in a way that I didn't plan. The war that caused all my problems broke out in 1987 from the southern villages of Sudan. This war destroyed thousands of villages and has taken thousands and thousands of lives. I was one of those villagers. The attack came to my village around 4 AM. That was when I was separated from my parents because they ran in a different direction. As a little boy, I didn't know my chances of surviving, and I didn't know how my life was going to be. I ran away from Sudan to Ethiopia when the war separated my family. On my way to Ethiopia, I was hoping that I would find my parents along the way, but it didn't happen. I walked miles and miles to another country. While we were traveling, we were losing people left and right because of the many challenges such as lack of food, and the danger of wild animals.



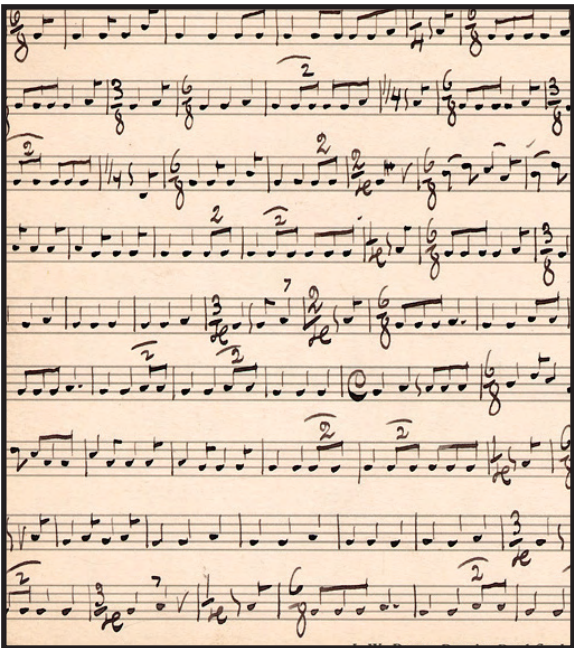
So when I got to Ethiopia, the older people made an announcement that the kids without parents gather here. As they gathered us, we made a number of twelve thousand children from Sudan. They gave us the name of Lost Boys and Lost Girls. We stayed there for three years, and in 1991 the war broke out in Ethiopia. We were chased out at gunpoint. We started running back to the Sudan border, but before we got to the border, we were ambushed seven times. We left people behind crying for help. The last attack was one of the bloodiest and most

"As a little boy, I didn't know my chances of surviving."

remarkable among all them because it killed over two thousand people in one day. Somehow we made it to the Sudan border to a local place called

Pachlla. We stayed there for three months. The next thing we knew we were under heavy attack from both directions, ground and air. We started running again toward the Kenyan border. Moreover, we were getting attacked one after the other until we made it to the Kenyan border where we were welcomed by UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). I stayed in Kenya for 9 years. From there UNHCR brought us some books and I started going to school. That is the place where I started learning the ABCs. Even though I ran between borders of Africa, I settled in Kenya for a while until 1998 when the American government came up with this idea of resettling the Lost Boys of Sudan to the United State of America. Somehow, due to the struggles and challenges, The Lost Boys were not twelve thousand anymore. We were just five thousand. Most of the survivors are here in America and they are in all different States. The majority of them are working and going to school. My process did not come right away. It was delayed a little bit. On September 2, 2001 my name appeared on a board in Kakuma so I took a plane from Kakuma to the Kenyatta Airport where I took another plane to come to America. I made it here one week before 9/11. As I mentioned earlier growing up for me was a bad time. My first Question that came to mind was it seems that everywhere I go had problems. I was sitting at the apartment with my roommate whom I came with from

Kenya. We were wondering what would be next? To me, I know this was the most peaceful place that I had ever been. As people told me America is the land of opportunities and I said to myself when I touch the ground in San Diego I will put my hand in every opportunity that comes, especially education. In short this is a song of myself. The story is long in words, deep in root, and would be massive in pages if I wrote it all.



Movie Review: "Fred Claus"

Emily Hoskins

Basically the story of "Fred Claus" goes a little something like this. Sick of living in his little brother's flat, jolly shadow Fred Claus, lives a life as a total slacker who basically makes a living by being a thief. When Fred lands in jail, his brother, Santa Claus, bails him out, but only if Fred works off his debt to society at, you guessed it, the North Pole. Surprise, surprise, it turns out not to be such a good idea. For a Vince Vaughn movie the fact that there was hardly any humor was more than a little disappointing. The film sometimes seemed desperate for a laugh but instead went for a warm heartfelt moment instead. From a college student's perspective and thinking about the great "Wedding Crashers" walking into the theater, "Fred Claus" wasn't really appealing. Sure, it had its funny parts, but they were too hard to remember just minutes after the movie. For all the negative things there are to be said

about this movie there is a positive side. There were appearances by a lot of big names such as Ludacris, Steven



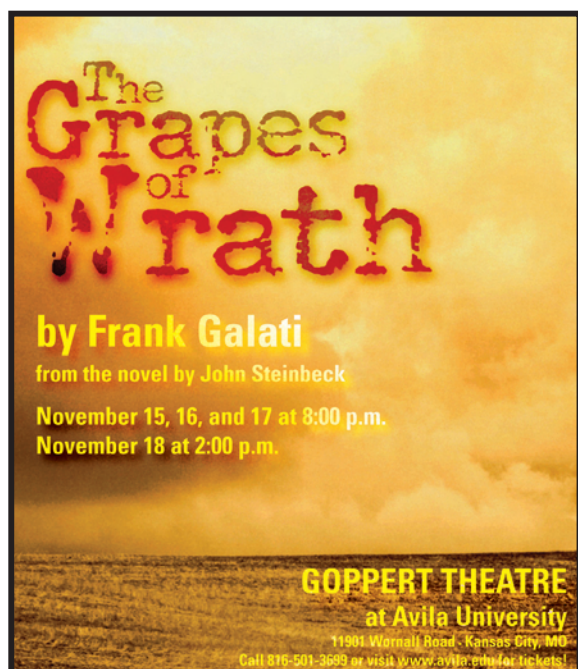
Baldwin, and Kevin Spacey. It was fun to see all of them in action, but overall this movie is no better than a B-. So if you're a die hard Vince Vaughn fan then by all means go, but if you don't have the time, it's not going to kill you to overlook it.

Review: Grapes of Wrath Whitney Beiler

November 14 the Avila University Theatre Company began a very successful run of The Grapes of Wrath. Upon entering the theatre, audience members were dazzled by an immense setting. There was wood everywhere, the floors, the walls and even on scenery that was flown in during the show. This massive set was built by members of the cast and crew, designed entirely by students. It was a technical masterpiece. Now, on to the acting...I was captivated. There was always something to watch that managed to hold even my short attention span.

Textually I think it had a lot to offer more intellectual minds, but Director Robert Foulk did an awesome job of presenting something easy to understand and follow: oppression trickling downward, fighting for justice.

Next up for Avila University Theatre Company is the modern drama Marisol (February 28-March 2) followed by the musical Kiss Me, Kate (April 24-27).



Madrigal Dinner Sparks Tradition Whitney Beiler

Are you in the mood for some sweet singing action? How about an evening in the Goppert Castle? You know it as the Goppert Lobby but for December 7 and 8 it will be transformed into a castle of food, fun and song from the 1500s. For the first time, the Avila Music Department is presenting a Madrigal Dinner. In the midst of a choral concert featuring the University Singers, Avila Singers, Women's Ensemble and the Men's Glee Club, there will be an appearance by the "Four Knights of the Square-ish Table" as they try to "Right the Wrong or Wrong the Right." One ticket buys you a fabulous catered dinner as well as "A Little Knight Schtick." Tickets are \$28 with a discount available for Arts at Avila members and can be reserved by calling Dr. Amity Bryson at 816-501-3651 or through e-mail at amity.bryson@avila.edu. Please call ahead, seating is limited.



Hansel and Gretel

Firsts are abounding! Among these firsts is Avila University's first co-production with Theatre for Young America. Hansel and Gretel will be playing at Union Station's H&R Block City Stage November 27 through December 29, breathing new life into the original Grimm brothers' fairy tale turned opera by Engelbert Humperdinck. Adjunct professor and Theatre for Young America founder, Gene Mackey directs alongside the chair of the music department and Hansel and Gretel Music Director, Dr. Amity Bryson. Union Station is located at 30 West Pershing Road in Kansas City, Missouri. Tickets can be purchased by calling 816-460-2020 or online at www.unionstation.org



The Death of the Reel

BuddyBlackman

As many of you know and are tired of reading about, Ben Meade recently teamed up with Guy Maddin, the Canadian filmmaker of filmmakers for a movie about the dying age of film and the subsequent surrendering to video. The collaboration has been done in an interesting way, with Maddin shooting footage on his own in hometown Canada, Meade filming on our Kansas City stomping grounds, and then teaming up together in good old Missouri. The project has gotten plenty of media, being printed about in The Kansas City Star and every edition of The Talon this year. Well who would want to ruin that perfect streak?

As Maddin left to go edit together bits of his portion of the film back home, Meade hasn't slowed down production. This past week was met with chaos in the tunnels. Fortunately the tunnels are too creepy already for most students to walk through, avoiding the eerie sights of the most recent shoot. Joseph Lalli, a new student at Avila, has proven time and time again that nothing, for the benefit of a film, is too much. Decked out in what many would describe as a "feminine tin

man" outfit, Lalli, equipped with a video camera attached to a pole, battled Cody Wasson, in costume as "film man", a similar character with an antique film camera attached to a monopod. The two duked it out royally as members of Meade's intermediate production class laughed and observed. Two super 8mm cameras were used on the shoot, along with extensive lighting and a dolly. As if the previous scenes shot for the film weren't strange enough, Meade and Maddin are persistent in their quest to outdo themselves.

The film still has plenty of work left to be done, but the hardest bits have mostly been completed. Ben has said that another shoot will take place involving a man named Spike, and a lazy Susan; the tunnels will undoubtedly be outdone. Upon completion of the scene, it will

be off to the editing lab, where "Death of the Reel" will get those fantastic edits and post production touches, including a score with Ben's always trusty alloy orchestra. The final film will certainly be a dazzle of technique fused with bizarre visions of a digital future and a haunting film past. One can only wait and see if there will be an answer to these "apocalyptic" times, or if we are all just helplessly watching as the world changes. We all anxiously await the finished product of this masterpiece, which hopefully will not be long. A deal has nearly been struck already for the rights. What brave souls.



*"Feminie Tin Man"
VS. "Film Man"*

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DECEMBER
2

MASS DECEMBER

Sunday, the 2nd at 11 a.m.
Wednesday, the 5th at Noon
Sunday, the 9th at 11 a.m.
Wednesday, the 12th

DECEMBER
3

VIDEO BROADCAST: 'RULES FOR RENEGADES'

Monday, the 3rd at 3:00 p.m. --O'Rielly 102

DECEMBER
9

FINALS WEEK!

Good Luck on Finals!
the 9th - 13th

DECEMBER
14

CHRISTMAS BREAK 30 DAYS :)

the 14th - January 14th
Have a blast on Break!
Go Snowboarding!
Travel somewhere far away!

DECEMBER
24

CRISTMAS EVE

Have a great dinner!
Open some presents!
Drink some egg nog!

DECEMBER
25

CHRISTMAS!

Open your presents!
Have dinner again!
Don't shoot your eye
out with your new BB gun!

JAUUNUARY
1

NEW YEARS!

Celebrate New Years
Scream your head off!
Kiss someone special!

JAUUNUARY
14

SPRING SEMESTER STARTS :(

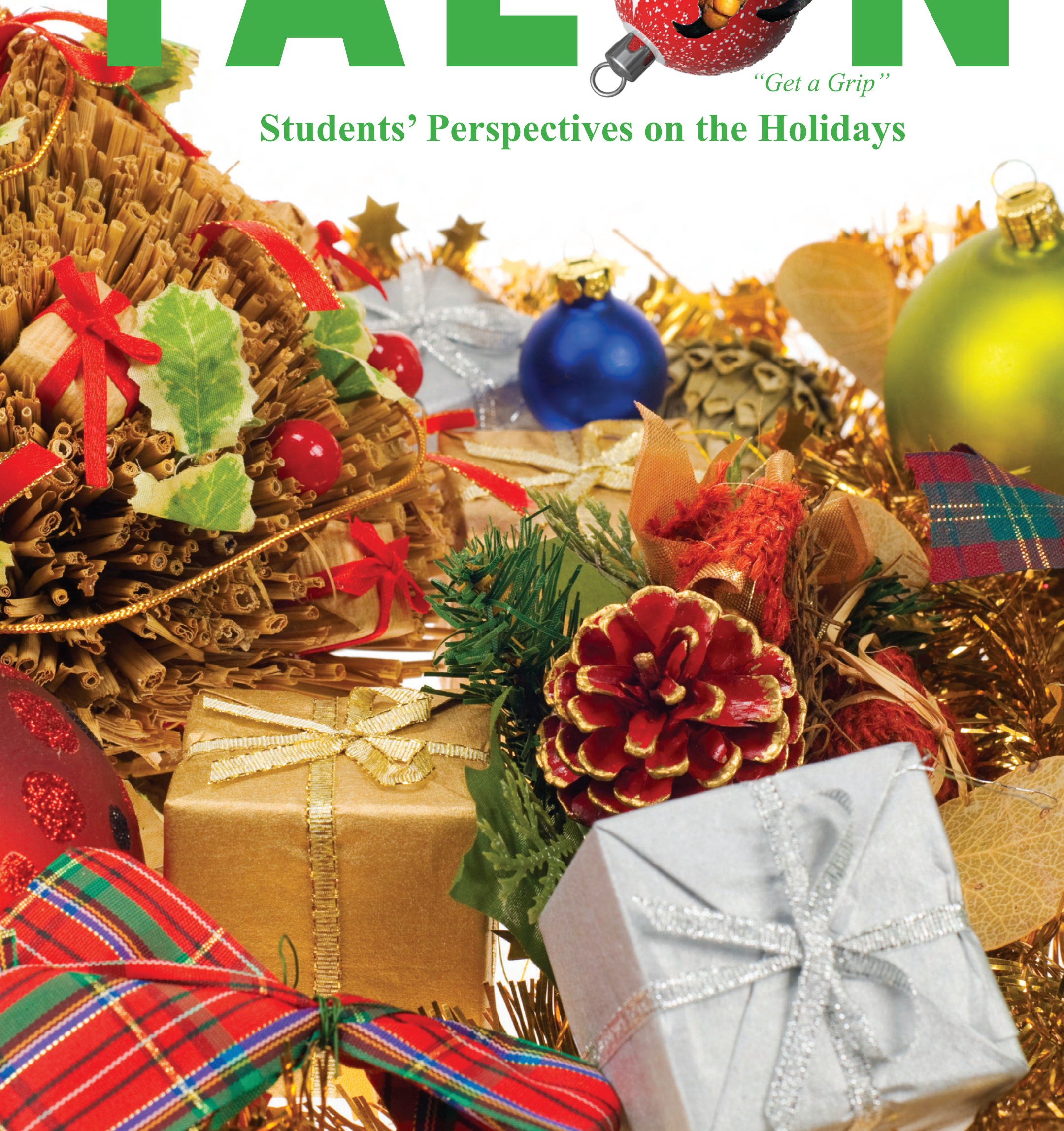
Drag yourself by the hair
back to school for more battle!
Hang with your friends again!

TALIN



"Get a Grip"

Students' Perspectives on the Holidays



Holiday music in October

You've Gotta Be Kidding!

Emily Hoskins

Here comes Santa Clause, here comes Santa Clause, right down Santa Clause lane. Blah blah blah it's not Christmas yet! Stop with the freaking joyous music when I'm carving my freaking Halloween pumpkin. Okay so that didn't happen, but it might as well have. I mean, I shouldn't be hearing "chestnuts roasting on an open fire" when I'm putting on my serial killer mask....should I? Seriously, right around the time of the joyous and loving holiday of Halloween, stations such as 102.1 and 98.1 initiated a playlist filled with nothing but reindeers, silver bells, and something

about a night that's silent. I don't know about you all, but around the time of Halloween I'm in the kind of mood where I want to feel the chills, I want to get a little scared. But no, I can't have that because these radio stations are shoving candy canes and gumdrops down my throat.

And what does this say about America? By playing Holiday music before Thanksgiving does that mean that as American citizens we mean to forget all about a holiday where we give thanks for the religious freedom that we fought for? Not to mention that by the time the

holiday season actually does roll around, this premature exposure to holiday music will in fact actually dull what should be times of joy and love. Yes, after hearing jingle bells for, oh lets just say 289 times, you can't tell me that you wouldn't want to take those bells and smash them into millions of pieces. I know that each station wants to be the first to get the old jolly word out that the holidays are coming, but

come on! Have a little respect for the Turkey huh? There are no songs for the poor little bird, so lets just all sit back, relax, and let Mr. Turkey have his holiday. After that, anything is fair game. Yes, fair game. You can chase me down and beat me up with oversized candy canes for all I care. Just please, have the decency to wait for it, wait for it, yes you are now free to play songs that have the word "balls" in it...."snow balls" that is.



Inherently All People Are

Dave Wilson

Inherently all people are good, such an outlook is naive, but it brings hope to mankind and that is what the Christmas season does for many. To argue that radio stations started playing holiday music too soon is displaced and should be dismissed. It is the advent of the season that allows so many to show love for one other, and it must be embraced for it will be gone as quickly as it came. During Thanksgiving and the weeks leading up to Christmas, strangers become friends with a casual seasons greeting. Friends in turn become something more as we grow sentimental over memories past and those still to come. The people we barely say hello to at school or at the office show their

genuine nature by taking interest in the lives of their colleagues. Discussing travel and gift plans brings a childlike gleam to most everyone's eye. In this time of national separation over the war we could all embrace a unifying joy in the giving nature of the season. Every year the same charities reach new heights, and we can feel God's loving hand in the work of those compelled to act on their heart's compassion for others in need. For ten months out of the year these feelings are subdued and ignored, but the light of the season driven by human nature to love and be loved allows us all to put our guard down and care. Thoughts of helping the poor, the homeless, the sick, the forgotten, those humbled

by the cruelties of this world are not as fleeting and it is a blessed time. If it takes the sounds of Christmas, the beauty of the lights around town, and the presence of Santa Claus to bring about this level of good in a society that desperately needs it, than I propose that we never stop listening to Christmas music, that we leave our lights and trees up all year. At some point in life we will need the love and help of those around us and those times are not reserved for the compassion of the Christmas season. Besides it is already cold enough out for late December, so this season don't be a scrooge, or a Grinch, but rather a Santa, or a Tiny Tim. "God bless us, every one."

The Sonic Drive In logo, featuring the word "SONIC" in large, red, stylized letters with a blue outline, set against a yellow and blue background. Below the logo, the text "America's Drive In" is written in a yellow, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text "Red Bridge & Martin City" is written in large, white, sans-serif letters on a dark blue background.

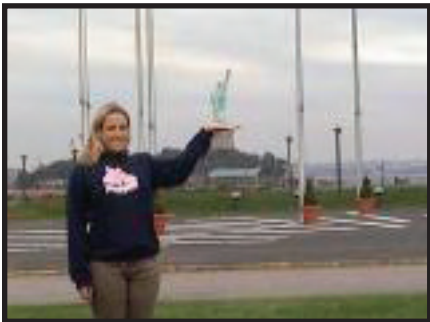
SONIC
America's Drive In
**Red Bridge
& Martin City**

Thanksgiving Memories

DanyAsher

The first time I hosted Thanksgiving at my house, my son was two years old. I had never cooked a turkey and I wanted everything to be perfect. After I stuffed the turkey and put it in the oven, I realized I didn't have a platter or basting utensils to cook and serve the turkey. Needless to say, I ran all over town on the morning of Thanksgiving trying to find a store open that still had these items. It took me two hours to finally find a store and get home.

-Sherry Haetinger, 4th year



When I was in middle school my mom gave my dad two tickets to the Dallas-Miami game on Thanksgiving for his birthday. Dallas won 20-0 and Dan Marino had a career high in interceptions for a single game. It was so cold in the shade of the dome and we had IHOP for our big dinner.

-James Timmons, 3rd year



When I was six years old, I remember crawling under the dining room table while my family was eating. My grandpa started petting my head because he thought I was the dog. Everyone got a pretty good laugh about it.

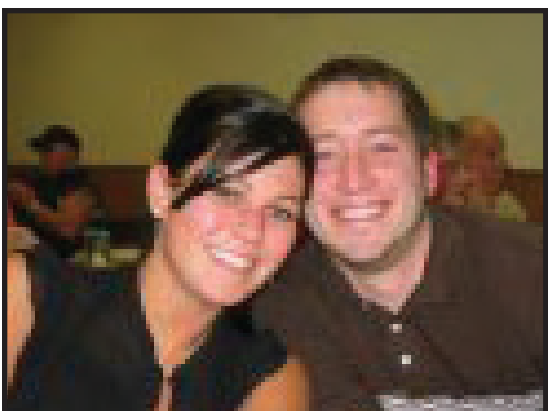
-Julian Parreno, 3rd year

On Thanksgiving of 2006, Avila student Brian Serna almost shot me in the back while coyote hunting in Oklahoma.

-William Harrahill, 4th year

Last year my boyfriend at the age of 24 got the chicken pox over Thanksgiving. I felt bad that he couldn't even see his little brothers for the fear of spreading the chicken pox to them. But the best part was that his little brother kept asking if his "chicken pops" were gone! Don't worry, we all brought him plates of food.

-CheyAnn Volkman, 3rd year



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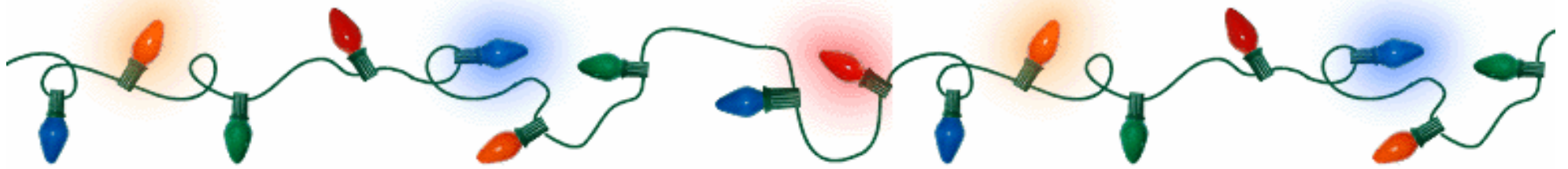


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Christmas Memories

DanyAsher

I soaked my older brother's shirt with flammable liquid and lit him on fire. We were 9 years old at the time and he wasn't burnt too badly.

-William Harrahill, 4th year

Two years ago my family decided we would go to Disney World for Christmas Day. Let me tell you: that was the worst decision ever. There had to be at least 2 billion people there and then on top of that it poured halfway through the day. Don't ever go to Disney Land/World on Christmas.

-Adam Korth, 2nd year

Well, every holiday is memorable because my family is so dysfunctional, but let's see...either when my brother proposed to his wife or a tradition that we all get together...the family...and decorate the tree...even if we think we are too old...grandma comes over...we have dinner and decorate our tree with all the ornaments we get and all the ones we made when we were young.

-Megan Carnes, 4th year ▼



I would say I don't remember how old I was or what year it was, but my brother and I woke up to find this huge red ribbon on the top of the stairs and as we picked it up and followed the ribbon through the house it took us to our playroom in the basement and there was a huge air hockey table. That was probably one of the best Christmas' ever!

-Zachary Prilliman, 4th year

One Christmas I received a Super Soaker, the best one at the time. While everyone else was opening presents I filled it up and soaked my sister. My grandpa stomped on it and said "Your fun is over!"

-Jeremy Arbiso, 4th year

When our parents would go out, my two brothers and I would raid the house for presents. We would open one side to peek and see what we got.

-Patrick Todd, 4th year

My dad said that we couldn't go snowboarding for reasons he wouldn't specify. On Christmas morning, I opened a present with a Bolle suit and goggles, and a new Burton snowboard. Another present had a plane ticket to Park City, Utah.

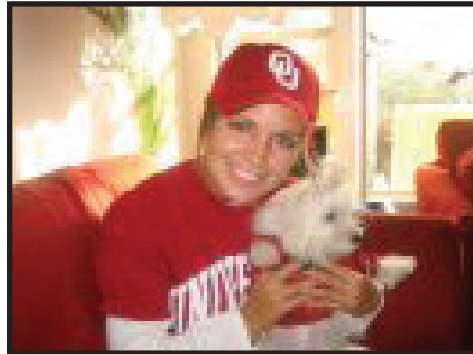
-Julian Perreno, 4th year

We always get together with family from out of state. It seems we always find a way to spend the holidays together, even if we only see each other once a year.

-Kalie Laidley, 3rd year

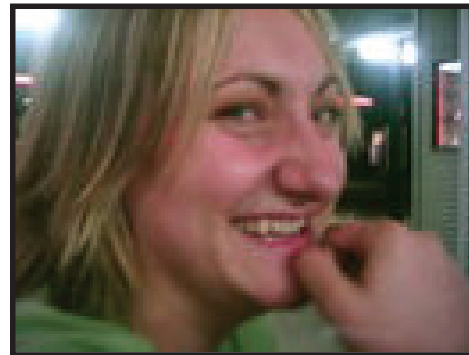
I went to Keystone, Colorado for Christmas in eighth grade with my whole family and we had a tree in our condo and decorated it and everything.

-Lisa Burks, 3rd year ▼



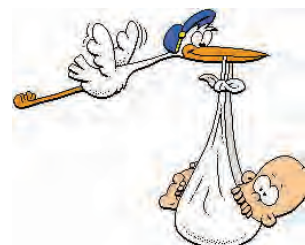
I can't remember how old I was (probably 6 or 7) but one Christmas we were REALLY behind. We didn't go get our tree until Christmas Eve. We were setting up the tree and decorating it and it was getting pretty late. I was worried that Santa wouldn't come since we were still awake. All of a sudden there was a knock on the door. I ran to the door to answer it and there was a huge red sack full of presents. I remember running outside and looking in the sky and seeing a flashing red light that I just knew was Rudolph's red nose (which was probably an airplane now that I think about it), but I was super excited. That's my favorite Christmas memory.

-Teresa Diebal, 3rd year ▼



I would have to say my favorite memory of Christmas would be Christmas Eve before I went to bed. Every year my mother would let my brother and I only open 1 gift before we went to bed. I loved it because it would always be pajamas. Sometimes even matching pajamas, which would be so funny.

-Danielle Starkey, 4th year ▼



SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT ON AVILA UNIVERSITY FOR HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION ACCREDITATION

Avila University is seeking comments from the public about the university in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The university will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit January 27-30, 2008, by a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Avila University has been accredited by the Commission since 1946. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the university addressed to:
Public Comment on Avila University
The Higher Learning Commission
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60602-2504

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed; comments cannot be treated as confidential.

Comments may also be submitted online at: http://www.ncahlc.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=247&Itemid=239

All comments must be received by Dec. 15, 2007.

Christmas Shopping

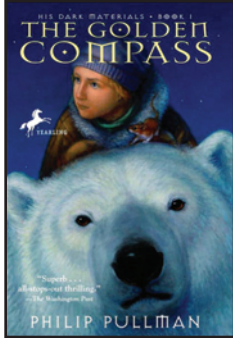
Charlotte Bishop

Christmas is coming, and so now's the time to get your shopping done before the lines get too long and everything you wanted to get is gone. Here are some gift ideas from Barnes and Noble, where this reporter is currently employed.

Book of the Dead, by Patricia Cornwall - The newest installment in the Dr. Kay Scarpetta books, the Book of the Dead is flying off the shelves. In it, Dr. Scarpetta moves to a small town in South Carolina for some R&R. She opens a private forensics practice, which of course leads to a series of strange and terrifying murders. Dr. Kay has seen her share of terrible things, but this case is not only baffling but also the worst she's ever taken on.

The Golden Compass, by Phil Pullman - The first of the "His Dark Materials" trilogy, The Golden Compass has been made into a movie due out in December. Naturally, the book is selling well now that the movie is almost here. It's about a young girl who receives a magical item called an alethiometer, which throws her into a huge conflict involving witches, talking bears, and the weird element known only as "Dust".

The Secret, by Rhonda Byrne - First a book, then a movie, from the start a national phenomenon. Rhonda Byrnes tells of finding the secret to life in a time of despair. Her daughter gave her a book from a century back, and in it was the secret to life: living in joy and gratitude. This was a major bestseller when it came out, and now that Christmas is coming, it's selling out.



Ratatouille – Honestly, I wasn't expecting this to sell all that well, since while it had notoriety it wasn't full of big names or hilarious moments. I was wrong. The Barnes and Noble I work at sold out in the first couple of weeks and we had to order 30 more copies. Everyone is clamoring to buy the kids movie of the summer. Quick synopsis: a young rat lives out his dream of becoming a world-famous chef when he gets separated from his family. It's a great movie for all ages.

The War: A Ken Burns Film - This was a very popular PBS series when it came out, and now it is just as popular on DVD. It shows the soldiers in World War II, their struggles and their sacrifices, and what it felt like to fight and kill on the battlefield. It's a moving series, both terrifying and amazing.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix – Actually, this DVD won't be out until late December. But tons of people are already pre-ordering it for Christmas. It's the fifth movie in the series, and it does come in a box set containing all five.

Raising Sand (Robert Plant and Allison Kraus) – Their first duet CD, Raising Sand is selling like no one can live without it. Full of several genres of music, it blends Plant and Kraus well and appeals to many different kinds of people.

Groban's Christmas CD has been sold out once already and is heading into its second sell-out. Groban's lovely voice brings a new touch to old classics like Silent Night and I'll Be Home for Christmas. Christmas Song (Mannheim Steamroller) –



Mannheim Steamroller's Christmas CDs are always popular, and this one is no exception. It brings the Steamroller effect to favorites like It Came Upon a Midnight Clear as well as less known tunes like Masters in this Hall. This is probably one of Mannheim Steamroller's better CDs, and the sales show it.



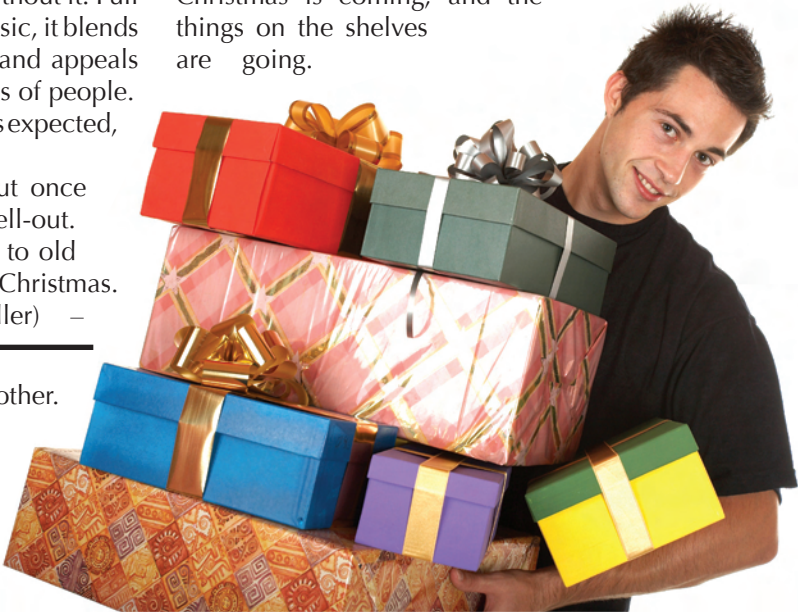
Apples to Apples - This game is amazing fun, and is jumping off the shelves faster than we can put them up. It's a game of comparison, where if your card is chosen to be the best description of the card

held by "the judge", you win that round. It's easy and fun, and usually hilarious.

Harry Potter Wizard's Chess – They finally made it. This is regular chess, but the pieces are those shown in the first movie. Unfortunately, unlike the movie and books, the pieces don't attack each other. Shame.

Webkinz Reindeer – Got a little one to shop for? One of the popular toys being sold at Barnes and Noble this Christmas is a plush reindeer from Wenkinz. He's very soft; in fact, you may end up wanting him for yourself.

Now's the time to go shopping, everyone! Christmas is coming, and the things on the shelves are going.



A Jewish Christmas

Buddy Blackman

There isn't a single other day that gets promoted longer than Christmas. It seems to be the Michael Jordan of holidays in the United States. You better believe before Halloween even starts, wreaths and lights and all that jazz are already being sold; which is funny because I don't think I know one person who can tell me when Hanukah is, including some Jews I know (and they even get eight chances to be right).

One might think that a Jew feels lonely or left out on Christmas, with Hanukah past and nothing to celebrate. But really it's quite peaceful, with bits of frustration. While all the Christians are snuggled away in their snowy homes, drinking eggnog and opening presents under the living room tree, the streets are left completely open. It's like High Noon when the Duke is walking through a ghost town, but instead of John Wayne, it's some Jew and that Jew is me.

The first stop on the agenda for a Jew on Christmas is a Chinese restaurant. For starters no one does food like the Chinese, and the fact that they stay open on Christmas garners them

extra points in the Jews' book. After munching on some delicious General Tso's (you know what I'm talking about), it's time to hit the movie theatres, all day, because NOTHING ELSE IS OPEN! On Hanukah things stay open. People still get to run their errands and take care of business, but Christmas is done a little differently. You see, once I'm done eating some Chinese food and I feel like picking up a new CD to jam to, I can't do that, because it's a sacred day to everyone at Best Buy. The whole store literally is closed.

Another interesting thing about Christmas is the caroling. I think the menorah in our window has kept the carolers at bay, but they still are out there. I don't think anyone has ever seen a Jew go door to door, spinning dreidels on people's porches. You see, we are a little modest in our celebration you could say; most of us don't even think about Hanukah until it's the day of. Then on Hanukah we eat latkes, say a prayer while we light the Hanukah candles, open a present, and then go about the rest of the day

like it were any other. Christmas is like a big nationwide party, except Jews aren't invited. But it's ok, because some parties are lame. It's not like the kind of parties they throw at the playboy mansion; not in the least. It's like that party that's been

way over-hyped, that may or may not be ok. Where everyone is relieved that the day is here and almost over with, full of resentment that they had to spend a lot of money on some people they don't even really care about. From what I hear, a lot of Christmas preparation is deciding who to buy for and who not to. It's like it's everyone's birthday,

and you've got a budget. Presents have become the driving force behind the holidays. It's sad, but awesome.

Lastly, a big misconception about Hanukah is that it's like eight days of Christmas, where everyday a new cartload of presents is wheeled in for me to open; it isn't at all. Traditionally you get eight presents, and each one is opened on its own day, like one



candle is lit a day. So it's not like I get pampered with nonstop gifts. Instead you have to be crafty. You have to know which box to open. When I was a kid it was always the biggest box in the room I'd open first, starting Hanukah off with a bang. But there are drawbacks to everything. It just means on day five after you've already opened the big boys you're left with the small stuff. It would be like running down to the tree on Christmas morning, and all you got that day was a pair of socks. But the most important thing about the holidays is your family and friends, not what you buy them or what they buy you. It's about being together for one day of our busy lives. All the commercialization and stress of the holidays are not at all what's important, even though it's become that way. Family and friends are where it's at. You may say, and many have before, that I'm just a scrooge... you're right!

Happy Hanuka



Snow Scrooge

KayleWalker 



Ever since I could walk, I skied. I grew up in Colorado and both of my parents are from Wisconsin, so I am no stranger to the cold. Now before you get the misconception of the Colorado I am from, let me describe my hometown, Lamar, for you. My friend Skylar McKeen, who is also from Colorado, likes to call my town "Kansarado," which is exactly what it is! My town is located in the Southeastern corner of Colorado, on the plains and is about 100 miles away from any mountain. No worries thought, because we still got snow... A LOT!

That being said, let me explain to you how I was raised in this winter wonderland. So obviously when my family did go to the mountains, we had to drive a few hours, which we did every holiday and extended weekend. Lucky me, right? Not quite.

I am just going to say it, I hate, HATE the cold. On a cold winter day you should be sipping cocoa and sitting by a fire, not climbing a mountain, sledding, ice skating, skiing or snowboarding.

I will admit I like these things occasional, but after 18 years of it being shoved down my throat, I think the hot, steamy Arizona desert is sounding pretty tempting.

So I may sound like a winter scrooge, but I feel I have good reason.

Let me start with the hiking. My dad loves to hike, which is cool, but every time my family goes out of town for any reason, my dad will find some mountain my family needs to climb.

I am not talking about climbing only a mile or two either, we go all the way to the top in my family. Which I must say is absolutely



beautiful and everyone should do it at least once,

but personally, I am usually dog-tired and wheezing from my asthma.

Next there is the ice-skating thing. I still don't really understand why people enjoy this? It's just not worth putting my feet through the pain! I have heard good things about the ice skating at Crown Center, but have yet to experience it.

My typical ice skating experience is a frozen pond with "thin ice" signs scattered about. I am assuming it's not the same.

Then there is sledding, which is probably my favorite snow activity. The only problem is that it's very dangerous. I have seen so much blood over the years that most sledding trips I am too busy worrying to even enjoy it.

Ah and then finally there is the skiing. As I said before, ever since I could walk, I skied. I've been to a variety of resorts and have had a variety of bad experiences. Walking in ski boots is a bad experience all on its own.

I could probably go on and on

about bad experiences I've had from peeing my pants because I couldn't make it down the hill in time (I was 5) to getting off on the wrong lift and skiing down all alone, but I think I'll share the worst.

My brothers and I used to always race down the mountain, which I typically NEVER won. So on this particular day, I thought I'd take a shortcut. Big mistake! My little shortcut led me to the parking lot, which I

the parking lot carrying my skis and poles. I did finally make it to the lodge after a lot of falls and lots and lots of tears, but I was scarred for life!

I stopped skiing when I was about thirteen years old. After about a five-year break, I thought I'd give snowboarding a chance. I've only been two or three times and it's been pretty challenging, but I actually enjoy it and think I'll stick with it.

Although I'd much rather be enjoying



realized half way down the hill. After attempting and failing to make it back up the hill, I just skied the rest of the way down to the parking lot. Keep in mind there is snow everywhere and the parking lot was a sheet of ice. I popped off my skis and attempted to walk across

myself in the sun, avoiding the harsh winter is inevitable. My plans for this Christmas? Ice fishing, sledding and ice-skating in Wisconsin with the family. After all, it's kind of one of those things that once it's gone, you can't live without it!



My Thanksgiving Present

Michael Rollen



The day before Thanksgiving I awoke to my wife saying, "It's time to go." After glancing over at the alarm clock and noticing it was 2 AM I

replied, "go where?" she screams, "The hospital!"

It's kind of strange how even if you know something is coming it can still catch you off guard. It was 9 months ago when

my wife & I found out we were pregnant and now the hour was upon us, so without delay I put on a shirt, grabbed her suitcase, the car seat, and we were off.

After 20 minutes (which felt more like 30), we arrived at the hospital and within minutes she was checked in and had her very own room. After a quick check the doctor hooked her up to a machine and checked to see what she was dilated to. After finding out she was only dilated to one and we had to get to ten I knew it was going to be a

very long day.

For hours we sat in a drafty room before they moved us to another drafty room and right as I started to fall asleep on a table covered by a long sheet of paper the nurse bursts in with a bag of Pitocin and asks, "Are you guys ready to get this party started or what?"

One hour, an epidural later, and after being called every name in the book it was finally time for the big push. Then, after a series of contractions out comes Elijah, my beautiful little son.

This One is for the Ladies!

MonicaLang

Sadness, apathy, hopelessness: these are all symptoms of depression. Everybody feels this way sometimes; that's where the term having "the blues" originated. One could be feeling this way due to something stressful that has occurred in her life. All of these feelings culminate to a very sad, unhappy woman and it is up to us to learn how to cope with stress and sadness in her own unique way.

The popularity of a particular type of drug has tripled in the past 20 years. There are 36.8 prescriptions for every 100 women according to Health USA 2006. Antidepressants are the #1 drug that women are taking, but why? Is this because the society is becoming more reliant on prescription drugs? Or could the society just be more depressed and are seeking medication for help more frequently?

These are all very important issues to consider when talking about the prescriptions for antidepressants. But, has the number of depressed women really increased, or has society become more willing to categorize it as an emotional problem in order to place blame elsewhere?

Laziness, in this country, is a HUGE problem when relating it to the issue of exercise. The number of depressed women in our society has over time (in my opinion) increased. Women who don't

exercise, eat unhealthily and don't take care of themselves are bound to eventually become depressed. On the other hand, there are some other women who have

or stressful event. So, in that case medication would be the next option to consider.

Antidepressants have several side notes that need to be considered before taking any medication. First of all, drugs cannot solve every problem. One must continue to have follow-

up visits with his or her doctor. Pills alone (usually) are not the best cure. Antidepressants take time in finding which dose is the right one for each woman. The bottom line is to ask several questions BEFORE getting any medication, and always vocalize what feelings/reservations he or she may be experiencing with the doctor. Antidepressants can affect the body in a number of ways through both weight gain and sex drive. It is important to remember that not every drug will work for every person. The trial and error in the first few months is crucial in order to make sure that the drug is working properly and not causing more problems than benefits.



Antidepressants are the #1 drug that women are taking, but why?

never been taught how to deal with certain difficult situations in their lives, and cannot cope with certain situations and then chemistry of those several different factors creates the depressed mood. This country lives, eats and accepts lazy behavior and those things may have created this nation of depressed, lazy women.

But, what is the scale of laziness? How can one judge something that can distinguish in so many ways?

According to many different sources, there are several things that should be tried before going to a doctor to receive a prescription for an antidepressant.

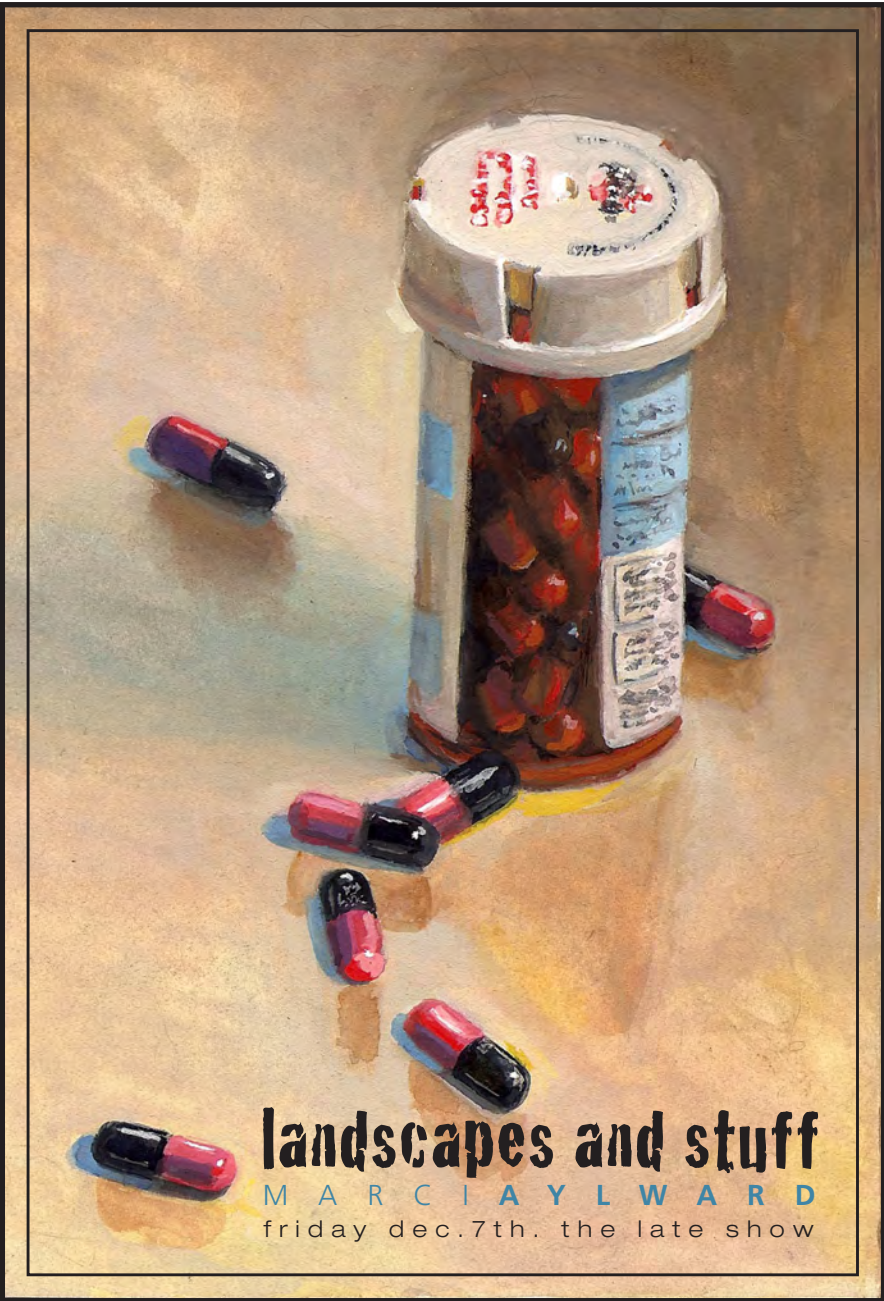
Therapy and exercise: "In almost every study, cognitive behavior therapy has been proven to help with mild to moderate depression and the exercise is a great alternative to medication," according to Diana Zuckerman, PhD, president of the National Research Center for Women. For some, therapy and exercise can be the cure for a depressed mood; however, there are some who still cannot overcome her traumatic

up visits with his or her doctor. Pills alone (usually) are not the best cure. Antidepressants take time in finding which dose is the right one for each woman. The bottom line is to ask several questions BEFORE getting any medication, and always vocalize what feelings/reservations he or she may be experiencing with the doctor. Antidepressants can affect the body in a number of ways through both weight gain and sex drive. It is important to remember that not every drug will work for every person. The trial and error in the first few months is crucial in order to make sure that the drug is working properly and not causing more problems than benefits.

To conclude, problems are not getting more difficult, and situations are not getting worse. There are people around the world who have certain ways of dealing with sadness. If this sadness does not disappear within a three week period, it may be time to start changing how to deal with the stress. Feeling sad and lonely can be a very unpleasant experience and nobody wants to live life like

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JohnDe Roo

Avila Women's Basketball



The Avila University Women's Basketball team started their season on November 2, 2007 with a 73-62 victory over Tabor College at the Benedictine College Classic. The women's team has seven new players along with six returners as they try to build on last year's 18-13 record, when they tied for fifth place in the Heart of America Athletic Conference with Culver-Stockton. Second-year head coach Larry Williams is excited about the potential of this year's squad. The roster this year includes six freshman and no seniors, so some growing pains are likely in the early weeks of the season. "The kids are working hard and the definition of success is not always measured in wins," Williams said.

The success that the girls achieved last year will be tougher this year to accomplish according to Williams, "Our schedule is tougher at the start of the year and the conference is tougher." Coach Williams believes William Jewell and MidAmerica Nazarene are the class of the conference followed by Benedictine and Missouri Valley. "The rest of the league will be battling to get to the (conference) tournament." Coach Williams is not only focusing on this year, but is preparing for next year when the Heart of America Athletic Conference moves up to NAIA Division I. "It's a big move up," he said. The women's basketball team looks forward to big things this year and in the future as well.



Over the past three years Avila's Men's Basketball team has steadily improved their record each year as they ascend to the upper tear of the Heart of America Conference. The 2007-2008 team looks to continue its upward moving trend of winning with the help of ten returning player from last season.

The 2007-2008 Eagles lost a few key players from last years team in Cort'Ney Turner and Terrell Johnson. Turner led the team in steals (1.8) and assist (4.5) in the 2006-2007 season. Johnson led the team scorer (12.04) and rebounder (6.3).

This year's team passes the test in terms of size and experience and seemingly has the players ready to fill the shoes of Turner and Johnson. Senior Martez Young didn't play last season, but did led the Eagles in scoring two years ago with 14.4 points per game.



"Look for Martez (Young), Tavan (Sills), and Michael (Williams) to step up and be players for us," said Coach Anthony Hall.

Seniors Tavan Sills and Michael Williams combined for 21.19 points per game and may emerge as the leaders this season.

Men's Basketball ChaddRivera

The Eagles are made up of ten upperclassmen, seven of which are seniors, and five freshman and sophomores. Guard Tommy Cochran is the only freshman listed on the roster. "This year team has great depth, but still needs to gain a better team chemistry," said Coach Hall.

How fast the 2007-2008 Eagles climb this season looks promising, but is dependent on many variables. Will players step up to fill roles? Will the team gain a greater chemistry? More importantly, how well the team plays in conference? A little school support couldn't hurt either.

Weight-ing for Change

KayleWalker

Most people would agree that there are typically two sides to every story. Last issue we heard the rant of a couple athletes regarding the weight room, this month we here the administrators' side.

The Mabee Field house was built in January of 1980 with renovations in 2001. The exercise equipment was purchased with monies raised through the capital campaign when the building was expanded. Additional purchases have been made in following years to continue as replacements have become necessary. Although the Cybex equipment is only six years old and is in fairly good condition, there are still a few things in the actual weight room that need improvement.

"If we are aware of what is needed we must look at the demand of use, the cost to fix/replace and our availability of funds," said Mike Sharpe, athletic director.

The field house is available to all members of the Avila community, including faculty, staff, students, and alumni. It is open for most of the day and is not monitored by security.

"The challenge we face is the disappearance of weights and other exercise equipment (dumbbells, medicine balls, jump ropes, etc.)," said Sharpe. "It is very frustrating to not only me, but to those students who have to go without these items because of poor choices made by others." The appearance is another things students have expressed complaints

about. The only type of visible renovation that has occurred is the painting of the walls, which has been done twice in the last four years by members of the football coaching staff. Another issue is the cleanliness of the weight room and equipment. The nighttime cleaning crew hired by the University is expected to clean it nightly along with the rest of the field house. Avila also has a maintenance contract schedule for twice

a year on the aerobic equipment as well as the Cybex weight machines. The student work-study personnel clean and


condensation and humidity," said Sharpe. "This was especially a problem late this summer when there was apparently a malfunctioning humidity controller within the air conditioning system for that portion of the building. The weight room may not be in top-notch condition, but it's all that Avila has. A good amount of money was spent last year on equipment replacement, and the athletic department will most likely spend more money on improvements this spring as well.

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condition the free weights. "I have been told by the campus services department that the rust has occurred over time due to the buildup of

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She Said

Emilie Brumit

The issue of a nationalized healthcare system has recently entered the limelight due to the Presidential debates. Many democrats, Hillary Clinton being the main proponent, are making this issue a major part of their platform. These politicians feel that the United States should provide its citizens with the medical care that they need, and make this medical care affordable to all.

Healthcare in this country is mainly provided through privatized insurance that is extremely expensive. Over one-third of businesses in the United States have no form of insurance offered through their company. It is estimated that over 266,000 companies dropped their insurance coverage between 2000-2004, stating "affordability" as the main problem. Even if insurance is offered through their

job, many employees cannot afford the premiums that they must pay.

Over 80% of this nation's wealth belongs to only the top one-fifth of the country. This means that the other four-fifths have to share less than 20% of the wealth in this country. Making insurance so expensive is hurting the majority of the United States.

On top of this fact, those who have insurance are paying higher prices for medical care because of the lack of health coverage in the United States. The country pays over 100 billion dollars a year in health care to uninsured citizens. Most of this money goes to the treatment of diseases or ailments that were either preventable, or better treated with early diagnosis.

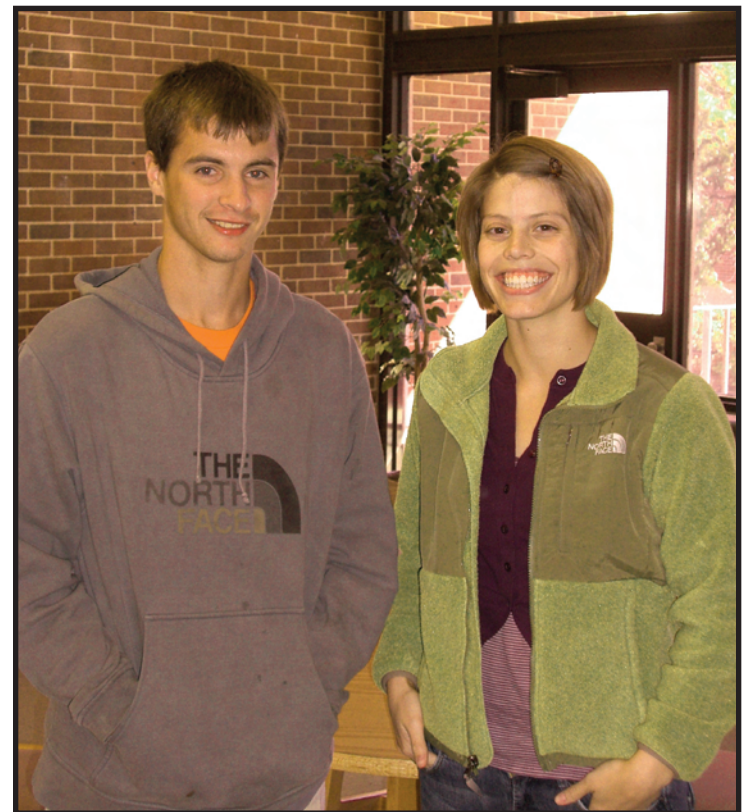
While a national healthcare system providing free, wide-ranging medical care to all citizens is not likely to work in the United States; a system offering free, basic and

preventive care could. A system in which all U.S. citizens have access to free physicals, disease screenings, etc. could cut the number of preventable diseases and ailments in this country down significantly.

This would give every U.S. citizen a basic level of care. The country could keep its privatized health insurance, while offering free basic care to all citizens. Preventative care and early detection of disease could save this country and its citizens a lot of money. Also, let us not forget that it is the obligation of this country to care for and protect its citizens.



Nationalized Healthcare System



'Prepare for Open Polls'

Ben Kopp

With the 2008 General Elections less than a year away, it is time to prepare, if you have not done so already. The preparations include gaining knowledge about the candidates, determining which values are most important to you as a voter and citizen, and registering to vote. A common view holds that such preparations—and even the act of voting—take too much time from one's day, but the amount of time that needs to be dedicated to each day is the same amount of time you will spend reading this article. For instance, an individual could look at headlines from various newspapers every few days, and read a couple articles that seem to be the most informative about any or all of the candidates.

Because everyone will have different views on the issues, the candidates will share their values and views of several different areas with a couple primary points on which they will base their platforms. The main issues covered by both Republicans and Democrats

include education, environment, civil rights, abortion, the war in Iraq, security, and immigration. As situations change for the candidates, the emphasis on certain issues may become stronger or weaker, but what is said about everything will remain important throughout the entire election. According to the Washington Post Issues Coverage Tracker, the current firm stances are focused on the Iraq War and health care; however, the candidates and parties seem to be dividing on whether the main focus should remain the same or change to abortion, economics, or immigration.

To make your voice heard regarding the issues, voter registration instructions may be found for the state of your permanent residence on the website of your Secretary of State. Some states may allow online registration while others will ask you to either mail in forms or send them to any state-run building. Registration in Kansas City, Missouri may be completed by mail, at several libraries and state buildings, and at the Kansas City Election Board building. Dates for primary elections in your state may be found at www.fvap.gov/pubs/primarycal.html.

He Said Joshua Loden

While free health care sounds like a grand idea, there are three reasons why there shouldn't be national health care system in the US. First "free" health care isn't really free since all Americans have to pay for it with taxes; expenses for health care would have to be paid for with higher taxes or spending cuts in other areas.

Second, "free" health care isn't efficient health care. The one common characteristic of all national health care systems is a shortage of services. For example, in Great Britain, a country with a population of only 55 million, more than 800,000 patients are waiting for surgery. The U.S. is a highly specialized and efficient health care country where people flock from all around the world to get treatment. Why would we change this?

Third, proponents claim there are 50+ million people who are

uninsured and this is why we need national health care. A closer look at this number easily deflates the argument. First, roughly half of this number would qualify for Medicare or Medicaid. Of those that don't, roughly 70% of these could afford health care, but don't because they are between the ages of 25-40 and most likely don't see that need for the extra expense. The remainder who would actually benefit from national health care is about 7.5 million people or roughly 2.5% of the total population. Thus the ends do not justify the means in this case and national health care would be unwise to legislate.

Sprint Center

JohnDe Roo

On October 10th, Kansas City opened a new showpiece at 14th and Grand Boulevard in downtown KC. The new arena known as the Sprint Center finally opened its doors and invited the public in for a look. Managed by Anschutz Entertainment Group, the building will host sporting events, concerts, ice shows, and other events. The place sparkles with its wide concourses, great sightlines, countless concession stands, and LED score and ribbon video boards. Ribbon video boards will soon be installed at Kauffman and Arrowhead stadiums as well. Adjacent to the new arena is the National College Basketball Hall of Fame and the College Basketball Experience. This building gives an excellent history about college basketball and lets fans of all ages hone their basketball skills and has a court for 3 on 3 games. This experience was certainly designed to have visitors keep coming back for more rather than just say “We did that already!”

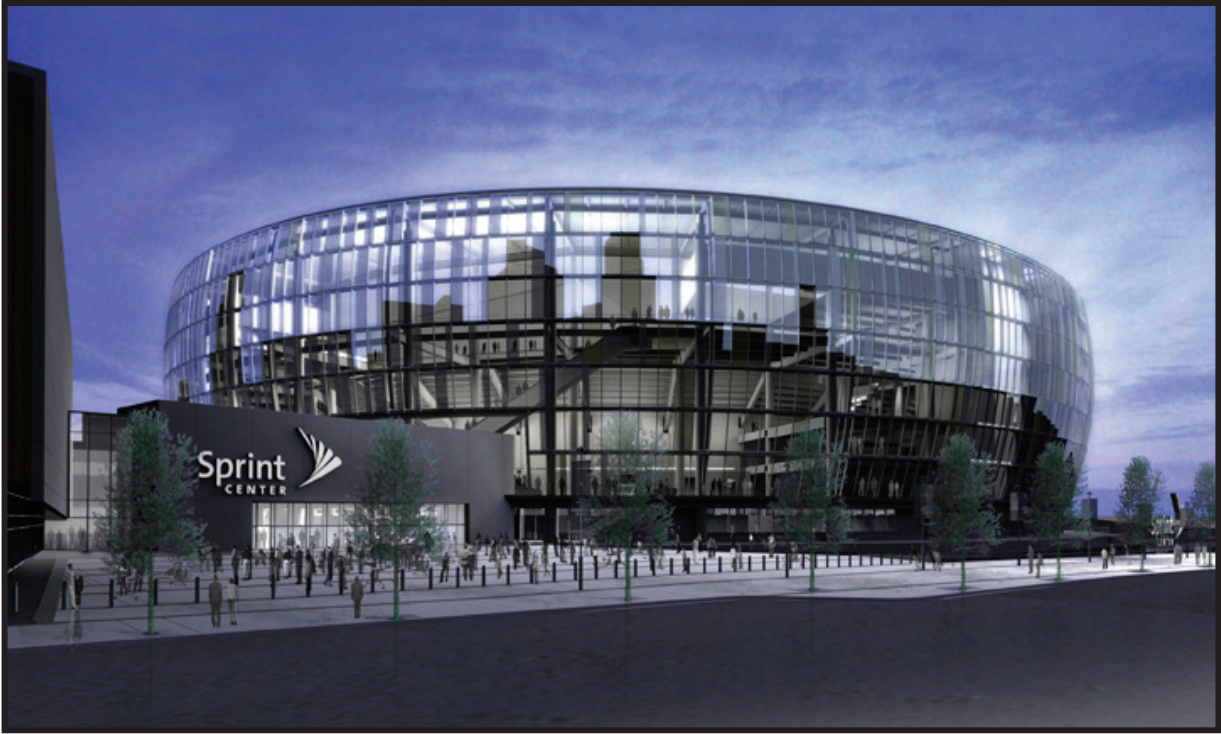
While the new arena is a showpiece right now, it will need a pro sports tenant to fill it. The 41 home dates that a pro team guarantees will keep the building in use virtually year round. Attempts to land an NBA or NHL

team have been unsuccessful so far, but the Nashville Predators of the NHL are still a possible option to move to Kansas City should negotiations with the city of Nashville fall apart regarding a new arena lease. Kansas City has not had an NHL team since the Scouts left in 1976 (they are now the New Jersey Devils). The NBA has not called KC home since the Kings left for Sacramento in 1985.

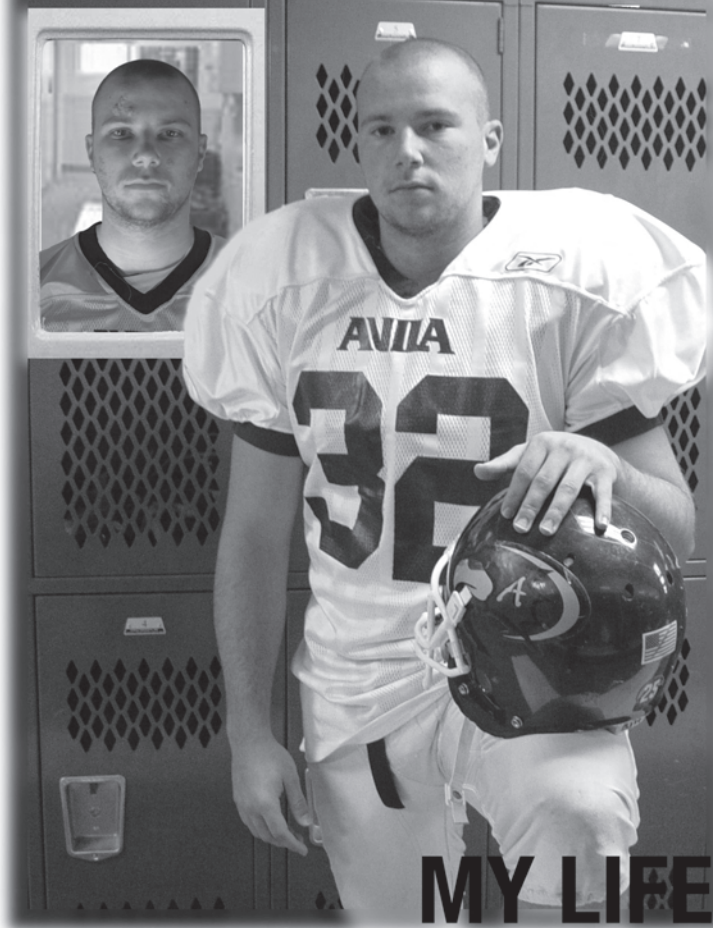
The Big 12 men’s and women’s

basketball tournaments are scheduled for KC in 2008, 2010, and 2011. Some of the NCAA Men’s first and second round games will be played at the arena in 2009 and a women’s basketball regional will be held in 2010.

If you have a chance to get to the Sprint Center soon, do it! The place will be a Kansas City icon for many years to come.



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Why the Eagle Represents MORE than Athletics

ChameneWoods & StudentSenate

When looking at the definition of an Eagle, one may stumble upon these words: strength, courage, wisdom, greatness, and leadership. Given these few terms, this is why the Eagle is more than a representation of athletics on our campus. As students here at Avila University, we are strongly encouraged to embody all of these terms and exemplify them both on and off campus.

Going back in history to when Avila began, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet demonstrated all of these qualities by doing the unthinkable, starting a school for young ladies so that they may be productive citizens in society. As students here at Avila University,

we are encouraged to exemplify all of these traits in various ways, not only in athletics. As students we are allowed the

leader is very demanding and for one to be successful, the student must embody the traits of an Eagle. As students we

are strongly encouraged to have a voice in the classroom. Through the teachings and missions and values of Avila, we are prepared to soar high like the Eagle.

To say that the Eagle is only a representation of athletics is false, because as we go through our college experience, we are expected to demonstrate great amounts of courage, strength, and wisdom. We are expected to become great leaders in the professional world. When looking at all of what is expected out of the students, this brings us back to the definition of an Eagle.



opportunity to become student leaders in various organizations. Becoming a

On October 17, Avila University experienced something a little outside of a typical fall evening. At around 7:00 PM, an older Kansas City resident, who will remain unnamed due to privacy issues and will be called "Speed Racer" in this article, took to the Avila Quad with his Chevy S-10. After experiencing what emergency workers called symptoms of a heart attack, Speed Racer became disoriented and proceeded to drive up the pathway between Ridgway and Carondelet. From there he hit a bench, which will be replaced at a later date, and a tree near the fountain, which will also need to be replaced. After that, he proceeded to take a lap around the quad and tried to post up on top of the steps in front of the Marian Center. Following three failed attempts to conquer the stairs, he gave up and headed towards O'Reilly at a staggering pace.

"I thought he was going to run straight into the front of O'Reilly. It was crazy,"

said a bewildered Hugo Morales, a student who saw the whole thing unfold, "I was just standing in front of Carondelet when a truck showed up on the quad out of nowhere."

Speed Racer quickly decided against ramming O'Reilly and veered

"I thought he was going to run straight into the front of O'Reilly. It was crazy"

off towards the library, where he got stranded and his reign of terror was brought to a sudden halt.

After an ordeal like this, a few questions must be asked. First of all, what is Avila's Public Safety office doing to prevent this kind of thing from happening in the future?

Luckily no one was hurt this time. However, who knows if Speed Racer

will have a repeat of his shenanigans. The idea was brought up to place bollards, or posts, in the openings where vehicles can enter Avila's inner campus to prevent access. Public Safety, however, said that doing this would also prevent ambulances from entering in case of an emergency. So, the question becomes: do we plan for another disoriented elderly driver, or a medical emergency?

Another question that arises is: how old is too old to drive? Drivers aged 75 and older have a 37 percent higher crash rate than younger drivers. They make up 9 percent of the general population and near 20 percent of all pedestrian fatalities. Should there be an age where people can no longer get a drivers license? Should there be an evaluation system when renewing your license? Log on to www.thetalon-online.com to answer these questions and express your opinion.

Elderly Man Terrorizes Avila

BrianBerger



Television-Drunk Love WhitneyBeilier

Sometimes when I feel like my love life is screwed up, I think of a guy I know. He's always in love with someone who's not in love with him, which made me wonder how he must feel/deal with that. But I think that is how he deals with it... by finding someone else to be in love with, thus creating this ongoing list of girls he's been in love with. I don't think I could do that, fall in love that easily,

or love would lose all its meaning and importance. But I think this particular dating style is why today's courtship has changed from dating to hooking up.

In past generations, dating was seen as courtship. There would be casual dates, the more serious "going steady" time and then if all went well there would be an engagement. Now it seems we

have allowed ourselves to be horribly influenced by reality TV. Most reality dating shows involve a male fantasy concept of one male contestant getting to pick a "winner" out of many women. These short, segmented shows can't have big, complex relationships that focus on deeply knowing a person, they instead turn that concept of emotional connection into one based more on the

superficial. A woman on a competitive quest can win the battle of most/best physical connection to win the game, but is she really in love or simply fooled herself into a false comfort similar to the plot of She's All That and other films that convinces women that we can not only find love in the men who set out to use our hearts in games, but use theirs in our own games?

BenKopp STUDENT PERSPECTIVE



On Diversity Value Vent

A central value of Avila University is to uphold “diversity and its expression,” but what does this truly mean? The concept of diversity in and of itself means to have a heterogeneous mixture, but the extent and components of this mixture are rather ambiguous. Avila University must ask itself how many levels this diversity encompasses as well as the strength of each level. An examination of the Fall 2007 Enrollment Quick Facts reveals the holds and focuses of Avila in applying the ambiguous value of “diversity and its expression.” Everyone seems to be represented in these two senses, but it seems that Avila could do much more in the way of mixing various groups. In almost every level of diversity, a two-third majority stands tall. In race, the majority is White, non-Hispanic. In

sex, the majority is female. In state of residence, the majority is Missouri with Kansas almost making up the entire last third of the Avila population. Only 19 other states are represented in the last six percent. On religion, two-thirds of the campus claims to be non-Catholic without any further categorization.

If all of these levels became more diverse, would it still be enough? Surely we cannot judge diversity on such superficial aspects as appearances, and hopefully we can go beyond the ambiguities that come with religious preference and state of residence. On location, for instance, Avila not only tends to stick with the Midwest, but reaches into many areas that hold similar values—Kansas City and Saint Louis, for example. Perhaps to improve diversity at

Avila, we should reach out to regions of the U.S. that seem more different than our own. Maybe then we will see enough diversity of values that the inflow of other diversity levels will be natural, and just maybe will we see campus cliques work more closely together and view themselves as a single, accepting student body that does some of everything on campus.



PURIST FORM OF LOVE

DaveWilson

The purist form of love can be found in Giacomo Puccini’s *Madame Butterfly*, it’s companion, heartache. The October 2, 2006 production of *Butterfly* by the Lyric Opera of Kansas City posed itself as the single most affected musical experience of my twenty-three years. From curtain, Puccini offers humor in the mannerisms and dialogue, but follows brilliantly with true love between Benjamin Franklin Pinkerton and *Madame Butterfly*. So refreshing were the verbal exchanges displayed by gracing the ears as eloquently as the original uncorrupted thoughts. The expressions of love between the two takes the ordinary people in the opera house and compels a universal yearning to be a romantic and to love another as the two on stage do. The arousals of romantic feelings are put on hold with the departure of Pinkerton to serve the great country of America while *Butterfly* remains. The stubbornness with which she endures a strict loyalty to Pinkerton shows the truth that pure love and ultimate faith have existed and can prevail. The years pass with *Butterfly*’s unwavering attachment to her absent husband becoming more admirable. One never

knows of the American child she has born until the very end of this most beautiful opera. The wonderful feelings of lust and love were segued into darker emotions by the humor of Goro the marriage broker. He is an unethical man in both secular and religious scales, but to say he is of low integrity offers itself as too much of a compliment. As *Butterfly* waits for her love to return home from serving Goro brings suitors for this seemingly disgraced woman. Along with the absolute filth of Goro is the comic relief that is warmly accepted throughout, barfing the end that no amount of humor could strip a witness of the sadness that *Butterfly*’s demise excites. Her honor is kept as she ends her life. While she lies dying on the floor of her home, Pinkerton comes to the realization of the true love that existed. This is the end that Pinkerton himself chose when he took a new wife, and as a reminder of his deplorable nature he has the reminder of his child created through his passion and greed. I have never in all my experiences with music been so completely taken by a piece. My first association with *Madame Butterfly* will most certainly not be the last. From the Guild room, the wine, and the atmosphere of the Lyric

Opera of Kansas City, I was astonished and awed.

My first encounter with the Lyric over a year ago fashioned a lifelong companionship. The whole experience of putting on a suit and going to dinner downtown or on the plaza creates an aristocratic allure that so many college students would never

associate themselves with fiscally. This is no longer a problem. Rather, it has not been one for some time, as Avila students may attend any Monday or Wednesday performance at the Lyric Opera free of charge. Present an Avila identification card one hour before curtain to receive one free ticket. There are two productions left in the season, *The Magic Flute* by Mozart, and *John Brown* by Kirke Mechem. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Avila community to gain some culture outside of the repetitive normalcy of College life. While this is not New York, the Lyric is of the highest caliber, and as an Avila student those that choose to take advantage of this courtesy should do so in a manner that brings no harm to the University. Dress nicely and take an active interest in learning opera etiquette. The opera tickets are an inspired gift to the Avila community embrace them and enjoy them.

Some People Do Win

SherryHaetinger

Have you ever wondered if people ever really do win those Grand Prizes that we all have tried to win? I used to think that those contests were created by some marketing genius who just wanted to gather information so we can all receive more junk mail or spam in our email boxes. But I was proven wrong when I became a Grand Prize winner.

I was the correct caller on a local radio station, 106.5 The Wolf and was entered into a Grand Prize contest that included airfare for two to Atlanta, Georgia, two night hotel accommodations, two tickets to see Rascal Flatts and the opportunity to meet Kellie Pickler (American Idol finalist). Now I didn’t think that I would even come close to being chosen for this contest simply because I didn’t think anyone ever really won these things. So you can imagine my surprise when I received a phone call telling me that I was one of 5 finalist chosen.

To win this prize, I was put to the test. I had to watch an episode of CSI and give a 30 second recap the following morning. The contestant who gave the best report would receive the prize. I was pretty nervous because I had never even watched this show; I had no clue what to say. But with the help of my supportive fiancé, I gave a really great report live on the radio station the next

morning. They told me I had won! So I was going to go to Georgia with all expenses paid! Of course I took my fiancé; he helped me to win the prize.

I spent two great days in downtown Atlanta, met Kellie Pickler, saw a really great concert and went sightseeing all on someone else’s dime. And to top it all off, they even flew us first class. So the next time you hear about a contest and think, “Does anyone ever really win those things?” I’m proof that they do.



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